

hsc 1300  
written by M.D.  
17 Mar 54  
after 5:00

SECRET

**CONFIDENTIAL**

I. Current Situation

A. Prime Minister Mohammed Ali's Muslim League apparently defeated in East Bengal provincial elections by landslide.

B. United Democratic Front - mostly assorted leftists- wins 85495 seats reported so far out of total of 237 possible.

C. 80-year-old Fasilul Haq will probably be new chief minister East Bengal. He has said he would not act without "cooperation" Karachi government. He

25X6

broke with Muslim League in summer 1953.

25X6

D. Factors in Muslim League's Defeat

1. Unpopularity local Muslim League leaders.
2. Basic failure Muslim League government improve economic situation.
3. Ethnic differences between East and West Pakistan - East resentment rule from Karachi.

II. Domestic Repercussions

A. Muslim League might make post-election deal with elements of Front -

depending cohesiveness Front, which now loose federation, no common program.

B. In any case serious blow Mohammed Ali party.

DOCUMENT NO. 20  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐  
☐ DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS  
NEXT REVIEW DATE:  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE 1-3-80 REVIEWER:

@ 1980

25X1

C. Great encouragement provincialism - will make task central government much more difficult.

1. Likely delay <sup>PR</sup> formulation new constitution - in works since 1947.
2. Confuse situation in constituent assembly in Karachi where E. Bengal has 43 of total 75 seats. Assembly only representative body now functioning on a national level, *Constitution has not yet been approved*

Possibility Communist influence.

- 25X1
1.  total of only 14 Communists, crypto-Communists running on

Front ticket.

2. *however,* Communists likely be strengthened and encouraged by victory with which they associated.

### III. Foreign Policy Repercussions

A. US military aid not issue - but Moslem League used aid in attempt to build prestige.

B. Will be interpreted in India and in USSR as popular rejection of aid and of Turkish-Pakistani pact.

C. May raise doubts Turks others stability Pak government.

D. But not likely affect Karachi attitude toward West.

~~SECRET~~  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

Background on East Pakistan Elections

I. Statistics: East Bengal most populous - 42,000,000 - and richest province Pakistan, separated from Karachi by over 1,000 miles Indian territory. Total Pakistani population 78,000,000. Pakistan divided into 6 provinces, of which 5 are in West Pakistan.

II. Factors in League Defeat

A. Unpopularity local League leaders, especially former chief minister Nurul Amin, who was defeated by large majority.

B. League failure to grant more provincial autonomy - improve basic economic conditions among depressed jute workers, peasants.

E. Initial overconfidence Moslem League leaders - Front first real opposition since partition <sup>of India</sup> India in 1947 - League started campaign slowly, then postponed elections in hope of gaining ground, but move may have backfired.

F. In last weeks Moslem League leaders campaigned vigorously. Benazir Jinnah sister of Muhammad Ali Jinnah founder of Pakistan joined ~~the~~ <sup>campaign</sup> for the League.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

III. Seat Allotment B. Bengal provincial assembly:

Moslem seats	237	(9 seats reserved for women)
Non-Moslem	72	
Scheduled Castes	38	(2 seats reserved for women)
Caste Hindus	31	(1 seat reserved for women)
Buddhists	2	
Christians	1	
Total	309	

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~